

RECOGNIZING THE FINALISTS OF
THE UP2US COACH OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Up2Us—a leader in sports-based youth development—on the occasion of its annual awards ceremony for its Coach of the Year contest to be held here in Washington, D.C. As America's youth continue to be hit hard by the bad economic climate, it is encouraging to see an organization like Up2Us rise to the challenge.

Up2Us is leading a national movement to advance sports as a tool for addressing the critical issues facing youth in this nation, including childhood obesity, academic failure and anti-social behavior. Up2Us supports a national network of nearly 500 member organizations in all 50 states, serving 25 million youths through a plethora of sports.

In order to help serve this vast network, Up2Us launched its "Coach Across America" initiative (CAA) which is an AmeriCorps program that is the first nationwide effort to mobilize a workforce to promote positive youth development through sports. In partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and Nike, CAA coaches use sports as a means to promote health and nutrition, education success, civic engagement and personal and social development among youth in some of the nation's poorest neighborhoods.

Last year, CAA directed 250 AmeriCorps members to serve as coaches in 105 youth programs across 20 states to work with more than 35,000 kids. In exchange for college tuition awards and a living stipend, coaches completed a total of 170,000 service hours, which is equivalent to \$3.5 million in national service. AmeriCorps recruited more than 1,000 program volunteers, connected roughly 500 new parents to their respective programs and conducted more than 250 service-learning projects totaling 35,000 hours of youth volunteer service effort.

The 35,000 kids served by CAA coaches have access to the programs they need for their full development. They are provided a safe place to acquire new knowledge and skills and gain a heightened sense of competency and self-respect through working to make a difference in their communities. They build relationships with caring adult role models, develop leadership skills on and off the field; and have a better understanding of healthy eating and the importance of physical activity and exercise. In recognition of the powerful role that coaches have on the lives of youth, Up2Us runs an annual "Coach of the Year" contest to honor the unsung heroes who devote their lives to the positive development of youth through sports.

Mr. Speaker, as Up2Us and its participating members honor the winners of this year's Coach of the Year contest here in Washington, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this year's finalists. They are among a distinguished group of individuals dedicated to improving the lives of our youth through sport. Two of the winners hail from San Diego, America's Finest City.

Lisa Hawk is the Exercise & Health Science Department Chair, Athletic Director and la-

crosse coach at the Preuss School at UCSD. The Preuss School is a nationally recognized school that serves a diverse, low-income population. Lisa received her Master's degree from the University of Maryland, where she also served as a coach and administrator. Lisa is a proud advocate for sports as a tool for positive youth development and is changing lives through her work. Her athletes recognize how special Lisa is. "She sees the potential in each of her players and does not quit until that spark she sees within us is released for the public eye to see," one of the athletes said. "She has helped me through the turbulence of a teenage life to the hectic lifestyle at home and has given me a comfortable place to go as well as someone to turn to."

Renato Paiva is the Executive Director of Access Youth Academy, a program designed around three pillars: academics, the sport of squash and community service. He joined Access Youth Academy in May of 2007 from Harvard University where he was the Assistant Coach of the squash team. Originally from Brazil, Renato was a Brazilian Junior Champion and a top junior in South America. Renato graduated from Ruy Barbosa University with a business degree. Many of Renato's students submitted nominations with personal stories of how their lives have been changed. "Renato has completely transformed the lives of underprivileged inner city children in the San Diego area by teaching them the game of squash and getting them to excel in the sport, and in life," a grateful mentee said.

In light of all the struggles today's youth face, it is time we recognize quiet heroes like Lisa and Renato as they help better the lives of thousands of individuals across the country. By encouraging programs like Up2Us and their Coach Across America initiative, we can help make the lives of many young Americans healthier and brighter.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PARKINSON'S
DISEASE AND RELATED DIS-
ORDERS CENTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders Center established at Kings County Medical Center and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. This center has been critical as a research, outreach and comprehensive care center for many constituents in Brooklyn and the New York region.

The Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders Center was created with the intention of providing patients and medical personnel with the proper understanding of this disease with a focus on treatment. This center has two locations that are being recognized: Kings County Medical Center and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. At SUNY Medical the capabilities of this center include two attending physicians, a clinical trials coordinator, research fellows and assistants led by Dr. Ivan Bodis-Wollner, Dr. Marta San Luciano and the center coordinator Dr. S. Glazman. Patient Advocate, Mrs. Aida Torres, and Head Nurse, Mrs. Patricia Craig RN, provide invaluable support to the clinic as it provides tertiary care for Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders.

Under the direction of Dr. Bodis-Wollner and Dr. San Luciano, SUNY Medical Center has been able to focus on the education and treatment options for this disease. Tests include CT scan, MRI, PET scan, EMG/Nerve conduction studies, EEG, laboratory tests, cardiovascular, pulmonary and gastrointestinal function tests, speech and swallow evaluation, and genetics testing.

Kings County Medical Center is undergoing similar work at its Parkinson's Disease Center of Excellence. Kings County Hospital Center was the first ever public hospital in the world to be designated as a Center of Excellence by the National Parkinson Foundation and selected by the National Institutes of Health for exploring neuroprotection, a form of therapy which aims to slow the progression of the disease. The main goal in mind is to provide tertiary care for all patients and help to adjust their lives so that living with the long-term effects of Parkinson's disease is easier.

The Kings County Medical Center support staff work tirelessly to offer quality specialty services for the health needs of Central Brooklyn's diverse communities and neighborhoods. The Center of Excellence is another example of this service that goes above and beyond the patient care that is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders Center of Kings County and SUNY Downstate Medical Centers for their continued work in this field.

PLEDGE A DRUG-FREE LIFE DURING
NATIONAL RED RIBBON
WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I hope schools, businesses, the faith community, families, and community organizations in our Manhattan Congressional District will join together this week in celebration of Red Ribbon Week, taking place October 22–30, 2011. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people have the opportunity to make a pledge to a drug-free life. Red Ribbon Week also honors DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who died on February 7, 1985, while fighting against drug trafficking and abuse, as well as all men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit.

Established in 1988, Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation reaching millions of Americans. The National Family Partnership estimates that more than 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon events each year. The campaign is a unified way for communities to take a stand against drugs and show intolerance for illicit drug use and the consequences to all Americans.

Nearly one million New Yorkers reported using illicit drugs in the past year (16%). The only way to change this trend is by educating our youth on the dangers and effects of illegal drugs with initiatives like Red Ribbon Week. I have seen firsthand how drug use can ruin a life, and the crippling effects it can have on families and neighborhoods. I ask our community to reach out to our children by helping them make a pledge to a drug-free life.